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EXPRESS MAIL
Article Number EE106377521US

March 12, 1999

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MM Docket No. 99-9, RM-9434
Proposed Allotment, Channel 229A
Lancaster, NH

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find an original and four copies of the "Comments and Counterproposal" which North Country Radio, Inc. submits concerning the above-named proposed rulemaking.

North Country Radio also encloses a "Certificate of Service", testifying service on the petitioner, Dana J. Puopolo of Rehobeth, MA.

In the event that you require any additional information, I may be reached at (603) 447-5988.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Osgood
Vice-President

enc.

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Before The
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of)	
)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b))	MM Docket 99-9
Table of Allotments,)	RM-9434
FM Broadcast Stations.)	
(Lancaster, NH))	

COMMENTS AND COUNTERPROPOSAL

To the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. North Country Radio, Inc. herein submits its Comments and Counterproposal in the above-referenced proceeding.
2. In the proceeding Dana J. Puopolo seeks to amend section 73.202(b) of the Commission's rules to assign FM Channel 229A to Lancaster, New Hampshire as its second local service.
3. Attached is an engineering statement by the firm of R. M. Smith Associates, Broadcast Technical Consultants. The firm examined the coverage area of the proposed allotment to Lancaster.
4. The statement concludes that a full Class A facility at the present allotment site would encompass the entire community of Groveton with a 70 dbu or better signal contour, and that Channel 229A can be allotted to Groveton, NH in full compliance with Commission rules.
5. Alloting Channel 229A to Groveton would provide the Community's first local aural service. Lancaster is already served by a local aural service, WXXS(FM), Channel 272A.
6. North Country Radio states that Groveton is a community which is located to the North of Lancaster. With a population of 1255 (1990 census) Groveton lies within the township of Northumberland and has its own US post office and zipcode (03582). The community is centered around a

large paper mill on the Ammonoosuc River and serves as the hub of the townships of Northumberland, Stark and Stratford. Groveton houses the Groveton Fire Department, the Groveton Police Department, Groveton Elementary School, Groveton High School, the Northumberland Public Library and the offices of Northumberland Town government. Businesses located in Groveton include Gropaco Federal Credit Union, Berlin City Bank, Siwooganock Guaranty Savings Bank, Weeks Medical Center, Groveton Pharmacy, Main/Armstrong Funeral Home and Riverside Speedway. The Groveton Wausau Paper Mill, one of two mill facilities of Wausau Paper Mills Company (Wausau, WI), is the major employer of Groveton. Other major employers are Groveton Paperboard, Inc. and Wausau Carriers, Inc., a motor-freight firm which distributes the products of the mill throughout the Eastern United States. Groveton community organizations include the Groveton Fish & Game Club, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Groveton Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club.

7. North Country Radio states that Groveton therefore meets the Commission's definition of a "Community".

8. North Country Radio states that, if the Commission allots Channel 229A to Groveton, it will submit an application to apply for a construction permit for the channel and, if granted, will promptly construct and operate the station.

North Country Radio submits the COUNTERPROPOSAL that since FM channel 229A would be the first local service for Groveton, NH, the public interest, convenience and necessity would be served if the Commission were to allot FM Channel 229A to Groveton instead of to Lancaster.

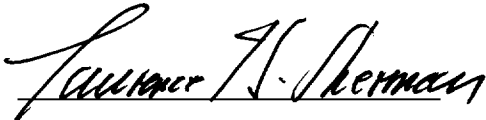
WHEREFORE, North Country Radio asks the Commission to DENY the Petition (RM-9434) to add an allotment for Channel 229A to Lancaster, New Hampshire, and respectfully requests that the Commission instead amend Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Groveton, NH	---	229A

I hereby certify that all the data and information contained in these comments is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTH COUNTRY RADIO, INC.

BY: 

Lawrence H. Sherman

Its President

North Country Radio, Inc.
P. O. Box 2008
Conway, NH 03818

March 12, 1999

R. M. SMITH ASSOCIATES

BROADCAST TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS
8 DEER RUN ROAD WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03087
(603) 894-6968 FAX (603) 894-5546
E-MAIL rmsmith@ma.ultranet.com

ENGINEERING STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
COMMENTS AND COUNTERPROPOSAL
FILED BY
NORTH COUNTRY RADIO, INC.
ON A
PETITION FOR RULEMAKING
MASS MEDIA DOCKET NO. 99-9 - RM-9434

Prepared by:
R.M. Smith Associates
Windham, NH

March 11, 1999

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Comments and Counterproposal by North Country Radio, Inc., of which this Statement is a part, requests that the Federal Communications Commission deny the Petition (RM-9434) as proposed to add an allotment for Channel 229A to Lancaster, NH and instead allot Channel 229A to Groveton, NH.

ALLOTMENT SITE

Channel 229A can be allotted to Groveton, NH at the coordinates specified (N44-33-55, W71-37-48) by Dana J. Puopolo in his original Petition.

A full Class A facility located at the allotment site will provide 70 dBu or better service to all of Groveton, NH.

FIRST VERSUS SECOND LOCAL SERVICE

As proposed, Channel 229A would be allotted to Lancaster, NH, as the second local aural service. Lancaster is already the community of license for WXXS(FM), 272A ^{1/}. The allotment of Channel 229A to Groveton, NH would provide the community of Groveton with its first local aural service.

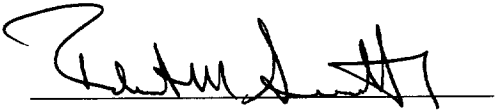
LACK OF ALTERNATE CHANNEL

An exhaustive search of the Commission's FM database revealed no alternative channel which can be allotted to Groveton, NH.

^{1/} Barry P. Lunderville has on file with the Commission an application to upgrade WXXS(FM) to Class C3 in BPH-980708ID.

CERTIFICATION

I, Robert M. Smith Jr., of Windham, NH, do hereby certify that all of the statements and data contained in this Statement are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further state that I am an experienced and qualified broadcast engineer, and that my qualifications are a matter of record with the Federal Communications Commission.

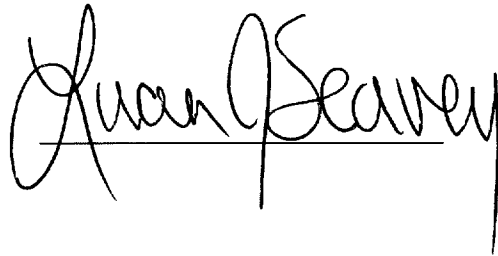
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Smith Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Smith Jr.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lucia J. Seavey, Office Manager of North Country Radio, Inc., do hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing "Comments and Counterproposal" by North Country Radio regarding MM Docket No. 99-9, RM-9434 was sent this 12th day of March, 1999 by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

Mr. Dana J. Puopolo
37 Martin St.
Rehobeth, MA 02769-2103

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lucia J. Seavey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.